

**Table 58-1 Female field concentration ratio<sup>1</sup> and dissimilarity index<sup>2</sup> of master's degrees conferred, by field of study: Academic years ending 1971–96**

Field of study	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Humanities	1.58	1.52	1.45	1.34	1.32	1.24	1.17	1.16	1.12	1.08	1.03	1.08	1.06
Social and behavioral sciences	0.69	0.69	0.68	0.67	0.69	0.73	0.76	0.77	0.84	0.88	0.91	0.92	0.99
Natural sciences	0.48	0.48	0.44	0.43	0.41	0.41	0.44	0.42	0.44	0.43	0.43	0.45	0.48
Life sciences	0.76	0.72	0.62	0.58	0.53	0.54	0.57	0.59	0.62	0.60	0.63	0.69	0.77
Physical sciences	0.23	0.24	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.20	0.22	0.22	0.23	0.23	0.26	0.27	0.27
Mathematics	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.55	0.50	0.49	0.51	0.45	0.43	0.47
Computer sciences and engineering	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.09	0.11	0.12	0.14	0.15
Computer and information sciences	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.20	0.21	0.20	0.22	0.25	0.24	0.27	0.30	0.35	0.39
Engineering and engineering technologies	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.10
Technical/professional	1.27	1.25	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.23	1.23	1.24	1.22	1.23	1.24	1.25	1.25
Education	1.92	1.98	1.98	1.99	2.04	2.10	2.18	2.26	2.28	2.42	2.48	2.54	2.64
Business management	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.11	0.15	0.19	0.22	0.25	0.30	0.33	0.38	0.41
Health professions	1.85	1.90	1.91	2.00	1.99	2.29	2.37	2.53	2.54	2.66	2.80	3.03	3.01
Other technical/professional <sup>3</sup>	1.56	1.46	1.34	1.24	1.15	1.08	1.04	1.07	1.08	1.10	1.14	1.15	1.22
Not classified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dissimilarity index <sup>2</sup>	37.9	38.0	37.2	36.0	35.9	35.8	35.1	35.7	35.3	35.3	35.1	35.0	34.9
Field of study	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Humanities	1.08	1.12	1.12	1.06	1.06	1.07	1.06	1.10	1.08	1.08	1.09	1.07	1.03
Social and behavioral sciences	1.04	1.06	1.08	1.05	1.06	1.07	1.06	1.11	1.05	1.08	1.10	1.12	1.12
Natural sciences	0.52	0.52	0.53	0.55	0.54	0.56	0.55	0.56	0.54	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.57
Life sciences	0.82	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.92	0.92	0.93	0.93	0.91	0.87	0.92	0.87	0.88
Physical sciences	0.31	0.30	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.34	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.37
Mathematics	0.50	0.49	0.50	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.55	0.56	0.54	0.55	0.51	0.53	0.50
Computer sciences and engineering	0.18	0.18	0.20	0.20	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19
Computer and information sciences	0.42	0.40	0.42	0.40	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	0.33	0.31	0.29	0.29	0.29
Engineering and engineering technologies	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.16	0.16
Technical/professional	1.25	1.26	1.26	1.28	1.29	1.29	1.27	1.28	1.27	1.27	1.27	1.26	1.24
Education	2.63	2.64	2.66	2.71	2.83	2.84	2.83	2.83	2.85	2.81	2.75	2.65	2.53
Business management	0.44	0.45	0.45	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	0.48	0.48	0.47
Health professions	3.16	3.23	3.16	3.58	3.40	3.30	3.14	3.27	3.32	3.31	3.19	2.96	2.96
Other technical/professional <sup>3</sup>	1.25	1.29	1.27	1.28	1.27	1.30	1.32	1.31	1.34	1.35	1.33	1.34	1.28
Not classified	—	—	—	—	1.14	0.71	1.37	0.71	0.68	0.64	1.05	0.18	—
Dissimilarity index <sup>2</sup>	34.25	34.72	34.76	34.36	34.73	35.32	35.09	35.07	35.59	35.83	35.05	34.52	33.59

— Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> The female field concentration ratio is calculated as the percentage of females earning degrees who majored in a specific field divided by the percentage of males earning degrees who majored in the same field. For example, the 1996 female-to-male concentration ratio for education =  $35.72/14.11 = 2.53$ . A value greater than 1 indicates that females are more likely to earn a graduate degree in that field than males, whereas a value less than 1 indicates that females are less likely to earn a graduate degree in that field than males. Includes degrees conferred to U.S. and non-U.S. citizens.

<sup>2</sup> The dissimilarity index represents the percentage distribution of female students who would need to switch fields of study to match the percentage distribution of male students across fields of study. It

is calculated as the sum of the absolute difference between the percentages of male and female students majoring in each field divided by 2.

<sup>3</sup> Principally composed of public administration at the master's degree level.

NOTE: Data for 1988 through 1995 are revised from previously published figures. See the supplemental note to *Indicator 57* for a description of fields of study.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Chartbook of Degrees Conferred, 1969–70 to 1993–94, Degrees and Other Awards Conferred by Institutions of Higher Education: 1994–95*, and *Digest of Education Statistics* (based on IPEDS "Completions" surveys).